

Appl. No. 09/929,938  
Atty. Docket No. 8666  
Amdt. dated July 9, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of January 9, 2004

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-20, 22-37, 40, and 42-45 are now in the case.

Applicants appreciate and acknowledge the mention by the Examiner that claims 2-19, 21-37, 41 and 42 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants also appreciate and acknowledge the mention by the Examiner that previously withdrawn claims 38 and 39, can be rejoined and are allowable.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 20 and 40 to include respectively the features of claims 2, 21 and 41.

Applicants have amended independent claim 43 to include the feature of a securing member which is female fasteners located on the top surface of the plate.

Applicants have added independent claims 44 and 45 which are identical to previously withdrawn claims 38 and 39.

Applicants have amended the specification as requested by the Examiner to update the status of the applications cited in the specification.

Each of these amendments is supported by the specification, claims and drawings as filed.

**Specification**

The specification has been objected for citing U.S. patent application by serial number and for not including the current status of these applications.

Applicants submit that the specification has been amended to include the current status of the cited application therefore mooting the objection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are therefore respectfully requested.

**35 U.S.C. 102(b)**

Claims 1, 20, 40 and 43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Von Post et al.

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Applicants submit that claims 1, 20, and 40 have been amended to include respectively the features of now cancelled claims 2, 21 and 42 and that these amendments overcome the 35 U.S.C 102(b) rejection.

Applicants submit that claim 43 has been amended to include the feature of a securing member which is female fasteners located on the top surface of the plate and that this amendment overcomes the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection.

It is submitted that all the claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action on all claims is therefore requested.

If the next action is other than to allow the claims, the favor of a telephonic interview is requested with the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,  
Policicchio et al.

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